

Countries represented at this meeting, according to the newspaper, were Communist China—which has been stealing American nuclear secrets and pouring illegal money into our political campaigns, Libya, Russia, Serbia—the country we are currently fighting, Saddam Hussein's Iraq, and Castro's Cuba. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know a bit about Cuba. Castro's dictatorship in Cuba is one of the most brutal in the world. It has killed and tortured thousands of its opponents.

By now, we all know the stories of how the Indian government has killed tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalit untouchables, and others. Just in recent months, I am informed that an Australian missionary named Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death in their Jeep by a militant theocratic Hindu Nationalist gang affiliated with the RSS, which is also, I am told, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. I am informed that there are 17 freedom movements in India and the ongoing political instability there may be bringing India's breakup close. We should support the peaceful struggle for freedom throughout India.

India destabilized South Asia with its nuclear weapons' tests. It was a close ally of the Soviet Union and supported the invasion of Afghanistan. I am told that it has the most anti-American voting record of any country in the United Nations with the exception of Cuba. Why does a government like that continue to receive aid from the United States?

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to stop supporting governments that actively work against us. We should cut off all American aid to India and declare our support for the freedom movements through democratic plebiscites. These are important steps to extend the hand of freedom to the people of South Asia.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR THE BRING THEM HOME ALIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999. This legislation provides a powerful incentive to persuade foreign nationals to identify and return to the United States any living American POW/MIA who served in the Vietnam or Korean War. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by 28 bipartisan co-sponsors.

The on-going war in Yugoslavia has brought the plight of American POW/MIAs to the forefront of the nation's psyche. We all watched in horror several weeks ago as three captured American servicemen were displayed with visible cuts and bruises on Serbian television. We feared for their lives, their safety and their well-being. It was with great relief that we watched as Staff Sergeants Christopher Stone and Andrew Ramirez and Specialist Steven Gonzales were released, relatively unharmed, from a Serbian prison.

The story of the capture of these three servicemen ended with family reunions and a safe return home to America. However, too many POW/MIAs were not so fortunate. There is the

possibility that soldiers from the Vietnam and Korean Wars are still living as prisoners of war. It is our duty to do all that we can to bring them home.

The Bring Them Home Alive Act would grant asylum in the U.S. to foreign nationals who help return a living American POW/MIA from either the Vietnam War or the Korean War. The bill specifically allows citizens of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, North Korea, or any of the states of the former Soviet Union who assist in the rescue of an American POW/MIA to be granted asylum. The legislation would also grant asylum to the rescuer's family, including their spouse and children, since their safety would most likely be threatened by such a rescue.

While there is some doubt as to whether any American POW/MIAs from these two wars remain alive, the official U.S. policy distinctly recognizes the possibility that American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War could still be alive and held captive in Indochina. The official position of the Defense Department states, "Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still being held against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility. Actions to investigate live-sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still help captive. Should any report prove true, we will take appropriate action to ensure the return of those involved." The Bring Them Home Alive Act supports this official position and provides for the possibility of bringing any surviving U.S. servicemen home alive.

In order to inform foreign nationals of this offer, the bill calls on the International Broadcasting Bureau to draw upon its resources, such as WORLDNET Television and its Internet sites, to broadcast information that promotes the Bring Them Home Alive asylum program. Similarly, the bill calls on Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia to broadcast information.

Mr. Speaker, we are less than two weeks away from celebrating Memorial Day. This holiday is an opportunity for us, as a nation, to honor the soldiers and veterans who so valiantly served and protected our nation and our freedoms. American servicemen and women deserve this recognition, as well as our respect and appreciation. I believe it would be a fitting tribute to American soldiers to pass the Bring Them Home Alive Act. As long as there remains even the remotest possibility that there may be American survivors, we owe it to our servicemen and their families to bring them home alive.

HUNGER'S SILENT VICTIMS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to our colleagues' attention a humanitarian crisis in Asia, one half a world away from the glare of television lights and public concern—but one every bit as worthy of our attentions as the crime scene that is Kosovo.

I recently visited rural villages in Cambodia, and was surprised to see that Pol Pot's leg-

acies—serious malnutrition and illiteracy—persist two decades after he was run from power. I am especially concerned that our country is focusing too much on political issues, and ignoring the tremendous humanitarian problems in Cambodia.

One aspect of these problems—hunger and malnutrition so severe that it is stunting the bodies and brains of more than half of Cambodia's children—was explained in a superb article recently in Time Magazine's Asian edition. We all know the tragic of Cambodia; this article describes a future sure to be needlessly sad.

Cambodia is a fertile land at the crossroads of a thriving regional economy. Its people are hard-working and innovative. With a little peace, and a little humanitarian assistance, they can again be the stable, growing rice exporter they were in the 1960s.

I would respectfully request that Time's article, and my own statement on the situation, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From Time Asia, May 17, 1999]

HUNGER'S SILENT VICTIMS

(By Nisid Hajari)

Cambodia is accustomed to the thunder of artillery, to death tolls thickened by war and disease. The quiet of peace, however, has begun to allow more subtle killers a hearing. The latest crisis: food security, or its shameful absence among the country's malnourished poor.

The problem is hardly new, only newly appreciated. Earlier this year a joint survey published by UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) found that in Cambodia's poorest rural areas, nearly half the children under age five are physically stunted, while 20% suffer acute malnutrition.

According to a separate U.N. study published last December, Cambodia has the highest malnutrition rates in East Asia, with an average daily intake of only 1,980 calories, even lower than that of famine-stricken North Korea (2,390 calories) "Malnutrition in Cambodia is chronic," says the WFP's acting country director, Ken Noah Davies. "You could call this a silent emergency, or you could call this a national crisis."

The scope of the problem bears out that dire warning. Although hunger is especially acute in the countryside, even Cambodia's relatively affluent urban population suffers disturbingly high rates of malnutrition. The most recent data released by the Ministry of Health reveal that in 1996, nearly 34% of children below the age of five in this upper income group were moderately underweight and 21% severely stunted. The results suggest that not only income, but also socio-cultural factors may contribute to the underfeeding of children. For traditional cultural reasons—breastfeeding from birth is seen as taboo—Cambodian women are often reluctant to suckle their newborns immediately, waiting several days and thereby depriving infants of highly nutritious colostrum, or first milk.

Much of the difficulty in feeding kids properly stems from the devastation wrought by the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot's mad attempt at transforming the country into a vast agrarian commune destroyed its irrigation system, which had made Cambodia a net rice exporter in the 1960s.

Since most farmers no longer hold formal title to their land—eliminated at the time, along with private property—their fields are vulnerable to takeover by soldiers and local thugs. And the sundering of countless families has disrupted the passage of traditional

knowledge from mother to daughter. In some outlying districts, many women have 10 or more children; some are either unaware of birth control techniques or unable to afford condoms. "Nobody comes to explain to them about health care," says Kao Chheng Huor, head of the WFP office for the provinces of Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear.

But in Kampong Thom, which according to the joint UNICEF/WFP survey suffers the highest rates of child malnutrition in the country, it quickly becomes apparent that the heart of the problem is mind numbing poverty. "I had no choice, I had no other way except to send my children away," says Hol Ny, her eyes wet with tears. The 40-year-old widow, bereft of land or cattle, recently allowed three of her six children to go work for other families, some of them total strangers; the \$15 she received per child must feed her and her three youngest for the next year. In her village of Srayou Cheung, at least six other families have similarly sold their children into bonded labor; some say they have had to forage in the forest for food. Hol Ny's neighbor, a 41-year-old divorcee named Pich Mom, sold her two sons for two years each. "I was sick and couldn't earn any money," she says. "It's hard for me to live without my children, but I think I did what was best for them."

For the past four years, Cambodia has actually recorded a small rice surplus estimated to reach 30,000 tons this year. This bounty, however, is distributed poorly, and many farmers simply cannot afford to buy what is available. (In a country with a per capita income of only \$300 a year, about 36% of Cambodians live below the official poverty line; last year the WFP assisted 1.4 million people, 15% of the population, with its food-for-work program.) Even those who have rice often have little else—perhaps a little salt, or the fermented fish paste called "prahoc"—to round out the dish. That little is not nearly enough: rice, while high in calories, has relatively few nutrients.

The WFP says Prime Minister Hum Sen was shocked by the U.N. surveys, and he now insists that eliminating malnutrition is a top priority. "Now that the fighting is over, we expect everyone to work on this issue," says Nouv Kanun, the energetic secretary general of the newly created Council for Agriculture and Rural Development.

A conference of Cabinet ministers and provincial authorities last month endorsed a 10-year, \$90 million plan to tackle the root causes of malnutrition, focusing on crop diversification and awareness campaigns about nutrition, health and hygiene. Still, the damage that is already evident will plague Cambodia for years to come. "If you are malnourished from six months until you are five, you are going to be handicapped for the rest of your life," warns Davies. "You will never be able to develop your full mental or physical capacity." Perhaps now that warning can be heard.

POL POT'S LEGACIES—ILLITERACY AND MALNUTRITION—HAVE NOT YET FOLLOVED DESPOT TO THE GRAVE

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, today detailed his impressions of humanitarian conditions in Cambodia and warned that problems of desperate poverty—especially severe malnutrition, scarce schools, and wide swaths of mined land—are undermining the victory over those responsible for the death of nearly two million Cambodians. Excerpts of Hall's remarks follow.

"I visited Cambodia's capital and two rural provinces April 8-11 to get a firsthand look at the problems of poverty, and particularly the terrible malnutrition that has left Cam-

bodia's rural villages populated by stunted people—and one in 10 wasted by hunger.

"What I saw in Cambodia's rural villages reminded me of the time I spent in Thailand 32 years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer. People in Cambodia seem to be frozen in time, and you cannot escape the nagging feeling that Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge have won, that they took the people backward in time and stranded them there.

"I was surprised to learn that in Cambodia, malnutrition is not the result of a lack of food. It is caused by the failure to teach mothers that they don't have to wait three days after giving birth to breastfeed the baby; that children should be fed more than just rice; that fish or fruit or vegetables won't make toddlers sick; and that without basic sanitation, disease will undo all the good of proper nutrition and care.

"People need more traditional education too—four in five rural Cambodians can't read or write, and just 20-30 percent of children are in school. That means they can't take advantage of their position at a crossroads of the regional economy. And education is only the beginning of Cambodia's problems.

"Without roads, it is impossible for rural people, who are 85% of the population, to get their products to market. Without irrigation, most can only raise enough food to keep their families alive. With even a few more roads and water systems, Cambodia could feed itself and earn enough to fund some progress.

"Malaria, TB, dengue fever, and the growing rate of AIDS infections need to be fought more seriously. It is appalling that Cambodian children still die from measles and other easily prevented illnesses. Even the most basic things, such as iodizing salt to prevent mental retardation, are not being done.

"The country desperately needs economic growth. The government's plan to demobilize 55,000 soldiers and 23,000 police will put a lot of young men with guns into a society that is very fragile. Aid cannot create an economy, and I hope the government will invest the money it now spends on the military on improving its people's opportunities.

"Cambodia's people need peace—and a period to find their way forward after 30 years of civil war. It is hard to imagine the trauma of the generation that endured the 'killing fields,' or their children—who now are raising children of their own. One aid worker told me that the pictures children draw almost always feature guns or weapons—because violence and war are so familiar to them.

"For peace to last, it will take more than the trial of war criminals. Two decades have passed since the Khmer Rouge were run out of power, but Cambodians remain among the poorest people in the world. It is in their lack of education that you can see that, even though Pol Pot's military is defeated, he achieved his hideous goal of turning Cambodia into a primitive place.

"After the mid-1997 coup, the United States cut its funding for private charities working inside Cambodia—from \$35 million to \$12 million. That is unacceptably low, given the election last year, and it is only hurting poor Cambodians who already have suffered unimaginably. Whatever Congress and the Administration think of Cambodia's government, we need to find a way to help its poor, and I intend to press the United Nations, the United States, and other countries to do that.

"The overwhelming majority of Cambodians, whose lifespan is just 47 years, don't know what peace is. If the areas long held by the Khmer Rouge aren't opened with roads and other basic infrastructure, if the people do not have an opportunity to get some basic

education—if ordinary Cambodians don't see progress in meeting their basic needs, the peace that is holding now may not last.

"We have an opportunity today that has not existed in three decades, a chance to introduce Cambodians to the fruits of peace. The international community should make the most of this chance by investing in Cambodians and their future—and the United States should lead the way."

INTRODUCTION OF HOME HEALTH ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to Medicare and the home health industry. These changes decimated the system and have left behind them a long list of closed home health agencies and patients without care. In response, many of us in Congress desperately sought a solution. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with one true vehicle that could pass into law.

This year we come back again. Our efforts will be just as aggressive but a little wiser. Instead of competing against one another, we in Congress will now work together to fix the problem. That is why I have joined with Congressmen MCGOVERN, COBURN, and WEYGAND to craft legislation that will help our seniors in need. Joined by Congressmen RAHALL, MCINTOSH, HOOLEY, WAMP, BARTON, and ACKERMAN, we plan to push forward legislation that aims to help the neediest of home health beneficiaries and agencies.

The first patients that will receive the aid are those that are considered "outliers." Outliers are patients who have unusually high cost maladies. Under the BBA system, many agencies are unable to give them care at the risk of being run out of business because they are so cost prohibitive. We create a system that sets aside 10 specific ailments that would make a person eligible to receive this outlier status. Once they are identified as an outlier, agencies who take these individuals could draw from a newly established \$250,000,000 Medicare fund to cover the added expenses. This will mean more of our poorest, oldest, and sickest receiving the medical coverage they so desperately need.

Another benefit of this legislation will be the establishment of a repayment plan for agencies who have been treating these individuals. Many of them are now almost out of business due to their charity and the inaccuracies of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in assessing their plight. We offer an interest-free 36-month grace period to these agencies in order to repay these overpayments and settle any miscalculations on behalf of HCFA.

I urge all other Members who see the need for a reform in home health to back this legislation. The Home Health Access Preservation Act of 1999 is a common sense way to help our seniors in their time of need.